

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8-12, 14-18, 20-23, 25, 26 and 29-33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Houghton in view of DE 1,605,178. The Examiner states that the DE reference would teach one skilled in the art to utilize a non-circular seat to prevent rotation. The Applicant respectfully traverse this contention.

The Examiner states that because there is very little space between elements 1 and 6 this would teach one skilled in the art to utilize a non-circular seat to prevent rotation. First, the Applicant notes that although the abstract discloses rectangular shapes it does not say that these shapes are utilized to prevent rotation. There is no suggestion to utilize such shapes to prevent rotation. The DE reference does state that the spring loaded coupling will compensate for position deviation. It is possible that the spring force exerted by the springs push 1 into 6 to prevent rotation. Because the springs may prevent rotation, it is not inherent that the rectangular shapes perform this function.

The DE reference is silent as to both a need to prevent rotation and the structure that would prevent such rotation. The DE reference teaches to center the pin by utilizing springs. It does not teach to prevent rotation with non-circular shapes. Neither Houghton nor the DE reference even address the problem of rotation. For these reasons the Applicant submits that one skilled in the art would not combine Houghton and the DE reference.

The Examiner rejected claims 7, 13, 19 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Houghton in view of DE and in further view of Nelson. The Applicant submits that these claims are allowable for being dependent on allowable independent claims.

In view of the above it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of claims 1-26 and 29-33 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
IRELL & MANELLA LLP



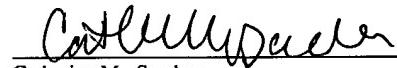
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Catherine M. Sanders 10-28-2004
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